

REMARKS**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sredanovic et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,084,803) in view of *Nizar et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,378,056). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 4 and 7. Claims 4 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice.

Sredanovic et al. discloses a non-volatile programmable latch 110 that is initialized by an initialization signal. The Examiner alleges that the programmable latch 110 has a non-volatile fuse and that the non-volatile fuse data is loaded into a register. However, Applicant can find no evidence in *Sredanovic et al.* of a volatile register connected to the non-volatile programmable latch 110. The output of the programmable latch 110 is connected to an address decoder 334 that is used to access the memory arrays (see Fig. 3 and col. 3, lines 12 – 16). The address decoder 334 has a completely different structure and function than the volatile register of the present invention.

Applicant's invention, as claimed in the amended claims, is to loading a volatile data register with data read from non-volatile elements and setting a bit of the status register to indicate the status of the initialization operation. Since *Sredanovic et al.* does not disclose non-volatile elements connected to volatile elements, Applicant's claimed elements can be neither taught nor suggested by *Sredanovic et al.*

Nizar et al. discloses a method and apparatus for configuring memory devices. As suggested by the Examiner, *Nizar et al.* discloses an initialization operation during which an initiate initialization operation (IIO) bit is used to indicate when the initialization operation has been completed. However, *Nizar et al.* neither teaches nor suggests a structure or a method for loading a volatile register from a non-volatile register during the initialization operation, as claimed by Applicant.

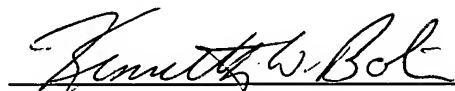
Neither *Nizar et al.* nor *Sredanovic et al.* individually teach or suggest Applicant's invention. Additionally, even if it were obvious to combine these references, and Applicant maintains that it is not, the combination does not teach or suggest Applicant's invention.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicant believes that the present invention is now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow the present application. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2203. No new matter has been added and no additional fee is required by this amendment and response.

Respectfully submitted,

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